

CLAIMS

1. A content distribution server comprising:

5 a playback control information generation section that generates playback control information describing a playback mode restriction for a section of content;

a license information generation section that generates license information containing a content key for encrypting the content and generating encrypted content and a usage condition describing an indication that only playback based on the playback control information is permitted for the encrypted content;

15 a content encryption section that generates the encrypted content in which the content has been encrypted with the content key; and

a communication section that transmits the playback control information, the license information, and the encrypted content.

2. The content distribution server according to claim 1, wherein the playback control information comprises:

25 a description that specifies the section of content; and

a description that restricts at least one

playback method among stop, pause, rewind, forward, skip, jump, and record, for the section of content.

3. The content distribution server according to  
5 claim 1, wherein the playback control information comprises:

a description that specifies the section of content; and

a description that restricts at least one of  
10 time skipping spanning the section of content and jumping to a specified time.

4. The content distribution server according to  
claim 1, wherein the playback control information  
15 comprises:

a description that sets a playback order of a plurality of sections of content; and

a description that restricts playback of the sections of content in an order other than the set  
20 playback order.

5. The content distribution server according to  
claim 1, wherein the playback control information comprises:

25 a description that specifies the section of content;

a description that indicates a time subject to

restrictions for the section of content; and

a description that restricts playback of the section of content in case of the time.

5 6. The content distribution server according to claim 5, wherein a description related to an acquisition location of current time is described in the playback control information.

10 7. The content distribution server according to claim 1, wherein the playback control information comprises:

a description that specifies the section of content;

15 a description that indicates an environmental status subject to restrictions for the section of content; and

a description that restricts playback of the section of content in case of the environmental status.  
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8. The content distribution server according to claim 1, wherein the playback control information comprises:

25 a description that specifies the section of content;

a description that indicates information

related to a terminal subject to restrictions for the section of content; and

a description that restricts playback of the section of content for the terminal subject to  
5 restrictions.

9. The content distribution server according to claim 1, wherein the playback control information comprises:

10 a description that specifies the section of content;

a description that indicates information related to a user subject to restrictions for the section of content; and

15 a description that restricts playback of the section of content for the user subject to restrictions.

10. The content distribution server according to  
20 claim 1, wherein the playback control information is described by means of a hierarchical structural description using XML.

11. The content distribution server according to  
25 claim 1, wherein:

issuer identification information that identifies an issuer is attached to the playback

control information and a usage condition of the license information; and

the playback control information and the usage condition are associated by means of the issuer identification number.

12. The content distribution server according to claim 1, wherein:

issuer identification information that identifies an issuer and an identification number corresponding to the issuer identification information are attached to the playback control information and a usage condition of the license information; and

the playback control information and the usage condition are associated by means of the issuer identification number and the identification number.

13. A content playback control terminal comprising:

a content decoding section that decodes encrypted content; and

a playback control information processing section that obtains playback control information describing a playback mode restriction for the section of content, and gives said content decoding

section a decoding instruction based on the playback control information.

14. The content playback control terminal  
5 according to claim 13, wherein said content decoding section obtains license information containing a content key for generating the encrypted content and a usage condition describing an indication that only playback based on the playback control information  
10 is permitted for the encrypted content, and decodes and plays back the section of content by means of the encryption key based on the playback control information.

15 15. The content playback control terminal according to claim 13, further comprising an operating section that receives a content operation request;

wherein said operating section does not accept  
20 an operation restricted by the playback control information.

16. The content playback control terminal according to claim 13, wherein said content decoding  
25 section does not accept an operation restricted by the playback control information from said operating section.

17. The content playback control terminal according to claim 13, wherein said operating section indicates operations distinctively between  
5 an operation related to a restricted playback mode in the section of content and an operation related to an unrestricted playback mode in the section of content.

10 18. The content playback control terminal according to claim 13, wherein, when the section of content is being executed in a restricted playback mode, said playback control information processing section changes to an unrestricted playback mode.

15 19. The content playback control terminal according to claim 13, wherein said content decoding section and said playback control information processing section are tamper-proof security  
20 modules.

20. A content distribution method comprising the steps of:

generating playback control information  
25 describing a playback mode restriction for a section of content;

generating license information containing a

content key for encrypting the content and  
generating encrypted content and a usage condition  
describing an indication that only playback based  
on the playback control information is permitted for  
5 the encrypted content;

generating the encrypted content in which the  
content has been encrypted with the content key; and  
transmitting the playback control information,  
the license information, and the encrypted content.

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21. A content playback control method comprising  
the steps of:

obtaining playback control information  
describing a playback mode restriction for a section  
15 of encrypted content; and

decoding the section in case of a playback mode  
not restricted by the playback control information.

22. A program that causes a computer to execute the  
20 steps of:

generating playback control information  
describing a playback mode restriction for a section  
of content;

generating license information containing a  
25 content key for encrypting the content and  
generating encrypted content and a usage condition  
indicating that only playback based on the playback



control information is permitted for the encrypted content;

generating the encrypted content in which the content has been encrypted with the content key; and

5 transmitting the playback control information, the license information, and the encrypted content.

23. A program that causes a computer to execute the steps of:

10 obtaining playback control information describing a playback mode restriction for a section of encrypted content; and

decoding the section in case of a playback mode not restricted by the playback control information.

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24. A storage medium that records the program according to claim 22.

25. A storage medium that records the program  
20 according to claim 23.